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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/732,282	12/07/2000	John Michael Miller	200-0459	9416

22844 7590 07/25/2003

FORD GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES, LLC.  
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ONE PARKLANE BLVD.  
DEARBORN, MI 48126

EXAMINER
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CORRIGAN, JAIME W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3748

17

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/732,282

Applicant(s)

MILLER, JOHN MICHAEL

Examiner

Jaime W Corrigan

Art Unit

3748

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8, 12-14, 24-26, 35, 36 and 44-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8, 12-14, 24-26, 35, 36 and 46 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 44 and 45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This Office Action is in response to the Amendment filed on 09 October 2003. Claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 46 have been amended. Claims 1, 9-11, 15-18, 22-23, 27-34, 37-43 have been canceled. Claims 19-21 have been withdrawn. Overall, claims 2-8, 12-14, 24-26, 35-36, 44-46 are pending in this application. Some of the arguments with respect to the references applied in the previous Office Action were deemed persuasive. A final rejection is set forth below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schroeder et al. (PN 5,598,814).

Regarding claim 44 Schroeder discloses controlling movement of a valve member (See Figure 1 (18)) based on an electrical (See Column 1 Lines 53-55) control signal; generating a position signal (See Figure 13 (110), Column 8 Lines 37-39, Column 9 Lines 6-8) indicative of a position of said valve member; and, commanding said valve member to stop (See Column 6 Lines 49-50, 58-60) when said position signal

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indicates said valve member (See Figure 1 (18)) is proximate a valve seat (See Figure 1) of an engine cylinder.

Regarding claim 45 Schroeder discloses said position signal is generated by a magneto-strictive sensor adjacent said valve member (See Figure 13 (18), (110)).

### ***Response to Arguments***

In response to Applicant's argument that Schroeder et al. fails to disclose "commanding said valve member to stop when said position signal indicates said valve member is proximate a valve seat of an engine cylinder". The Examiner would like to point out that a position signal of the valve member is generated is disclosed in Figure 13 (110), Column 8 Lines 37-39. With regard to stopping the valve proximate a valve seat it is the Examiner's position that this is disclosed particularly at Column 6 Lines 58-60. Here it is stated "...deactivation can be performed with the valves either open or closed". During deactivation it is well known that the valves are stopped and when the valves are closed it is well known that they are proximate or even touching the valve seat.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 2-8, 12-14, 24-26, 35-36, 46 are allowed.

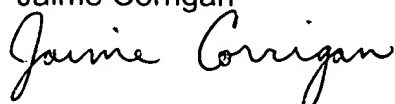
***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Jaime Corrigan whose telephone number is (703) 308-2639. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reached on (703) 308-2623. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

JC

Jaime Corrigan  


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December 27, 2003

Patent Examiner

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THOMAS DENION  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700